

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01
SS-15 SSO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 L-03 /065 W
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O R 201559Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4647
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCESSING
FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT BASES

REF: (A) STATE 301032 (B) HONG KONG 14429 (C) GENEVA 10084
(D) STATE 00543 (NOTAL) (E) HONG KONG 805

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED JANUARY 18 FROM U.N.
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, TO
AMBASSADOR, RESPONDING TO ACTING SECRETARY ROBINSON'S
LETTER OF JANUARY 2 (REF D), AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION
FOR THE U.S. ALLOCATION OF UP TO 100 CONDITIONAL ENTRY
NUMBERS PER MONTH TO THE "BOAT CASE" REFUGEES. LETTER
REFERS TO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS ON OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF
PROGRAM BETWEEN UNHCR AND MISSION STAFFS AND REQUESTS
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THAT ACTING SECRETARY BE ASSURED OF SADRUDDIN'S "CON-
TINUED PERSONAL INTEREST" IN PROBLEM AND HIS "UNCEAS-
ING ENDEAVORS TO MOBILIZE --- SUPPORT OF OTHER
COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM AND --- OF POTENTIAL
DURABLE RESETTLEMENT." SADRUDDIN ALSO CITES "SPECIAL
EFFORT" WHICH MUST BE MADE TO RAISE NECESSARY FUNDS
FOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION OF THESE

REFUGEES. (DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER MACE HAS ADVISED US THAT UNHCR IS NOW READYING AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR \$14 TO \$15 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHICH THEY HOPE WILL BE ISSUED BY FEBRUARY 15, AND IN NO CASE LATER THAN END OF MONTH. OF TOTAL FIGURE, ONE MILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED TO "BOAT CASES" AND REMAINDER TO REFUGEES IN THAILAND.)

2. IN PARALLEL LETTER, MACE RESPONDS TO MISSION'S DEC. 29 MESSAGE WHICH SET FORTH PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY FINAL PROCESSING IN HONG KONG, AND EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF FACTORS DICTATING NEED FOR THIS PROCEDURE. AFTER NOTING VARIOUS POINTS MADE IN MISSION'S LETTER RELATED TO PRE-SELECTION PROCESS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE, INsofar AS POSSIBLE, SWIFT AND CERTAIN FINAL PROCESSING TO HONG KONG, DEPUTY HICOM PLEDGES UNHCR'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TOWARD OBTAINING INCREASED RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND FIRST ASYLUM RECEPTION OF BOAT CASES. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO MISSION'S DIRECT REQUEST, DEPUTY HICOM STATES UNHCR IS READY TO PROVIDE ITS ASSISTANCE IN APPROACHING HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO USE OF ITS TERRITORY AS SHORT-TERM PROCESSING POINT FOR BOAT CASES WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED AND PRE-SELECTED FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO STATES UNHCR WILL "DO ITS BEST" TO RESETTLE FROM HONG KONG ANY BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHOSE APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. MAY BE REJECTED DURING FINAL STAGE PROCESSING. (TEXT OF BOTH LETTERS BEING AIR-POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, D/HA, TODAY, REGISTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NO. 2616003).

3. IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF SECOND LETTER, DEPUTY UNHCR TOLD MISOFF THAT UNHCR READY TO MOVE NOW ON APPROACH TO SECURE PASSAGE OF THESE REFUGEES THROUGH HONG KONG UNDER CONDITIONS STATED. APPROACH WOULD BE BY HIGH COMMISSIONER, MACE OR, AT VERY LEAST, BY ASSISTANCE DIVISION DIRECTOR JAEGER, EITHER HERE, (THROUGH BRITISH AMBASSADOR), IN HONG KONG OR IN LONDON. HE SAID THAT SADRUDDIN HAD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ANY PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS WE MIGHT HAVE MADE WHILE DEVELOPING PROJECT HAD NOT INDICATED THAT UNHCR OVERTURES WOULD BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY BRITISH OR HONG KONG AUTHORITIES. MISOFF RESPONDED THAT NOTHING WE HAD SEEN OR HEARD IN THIS CONNECTION TO DATE WOULD GIVE US THIS IMPRESSION. MACE SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME AND AWAIT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHERE AND HOW APPROACH MIGHT BEST BE MADE.

4. COMMENT. WE FEEL THAT HAVING NOW GOTTEN UNHCR

ABOARD ON THIS PROPOSAL, WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING
NECESSARY TO KEEP THE BALL ROLLING. (IN THIS, WE
CONCUR WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH REF (E) WHICH ARRIVED
WHILE THIS MESSAGE WAS BEING PREPARED.) HOWEVER,
CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS NO MIS-
STEP WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE HONG KONG OR UK RECEPTIVITY
TO PROJECT. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVNG
VIEWS OF ACTION ADDRESSEES SOONEST AS TO BEST TACTICAL
COURSE UNHCR MIGHT FOLLOW IN MAKING ITS APPROACH TO
AUTHORITIES CONCERNED, I.E., WOULD IT BEST BE DONE BY
HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE, OR THROUGH REPS IN HONG KONG
OR LONDON, OR SOME COMBINATION OF THESE APPROACHES.
(MACE ALSO INDICATED UNHCR WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND
HIGH-LEVEL REP TO EITHER OF LATTER POINTS IF THIS
SEEMED DESIRABLE.) ADVICE GIVEN WILL BE USEFUL TO
MISSION IN COORDINATING WITH AND, AS NECESSARY, GIVING
GUIDANCE TO UNHCR ON THIS MATTER.
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5. EARLIEST REPLIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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